

**The Story of the Black FOX**  
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## **Chapter 1: The Etiquette of Royal Companionship**

### **A Question of Allegiance: The Black Fox and the Lion**

**The people once posed a question to the black fox:  
why had he chosen to serve the lion?**

**The Fox Explains His Choice:**

**Black Fox:**

**"I prefer his service because I feed on the remnants of  
his hunt and live under the shelter of his dominance,  
protected from the harm of enemies."**

## **An Invitation to the Inner Circle:**

**Upon hearing this, someone said to the fox: now that you have come under the protection of the lion and acknowledged gratitude for his bounty, why do you not draw nearer, so that he may include you among his trusted circle and count you among his devoted servants?**

## **The Fox Replies with Caution:**

**Black Fox:**

**"Even so, I remain unassured of his wrath."**

## **The Wisdom of the Discerning: On Royal Temperament**

**The wise have said: one should exercise utmost caution in dealings with the varying moods of kings. At times, they are displeased even with salutations, and at other times, they grant robes of honour in response to insults.**